

German 39 04 232 was discussed on page 1 of the original specification and on amended page 1. U.S. Patent No. 4,709,980 and European 0 532 980 were cited in Category Y in the International Search Report dated August 29, 1997 and were

also discussed on amended page 2. Copies of these three references are attached herewith.

In the Search Report, in addition to the above-mentioned references, U.S. Patent No. 4,744,622 plus the Abstract for Japanese 63-005308 were cited in Category X. Copies of these references are also attached herewith.

The Search Report also cited German 41 40 701 and 44 08 633; the Patent Abstract for Japanese 06-118253 along with U.S. Patent No. 4,626,616; GB 2 277 812 and European Nos. 0 029 571; 0 091 633; 0 350 245 and 0 581 634, all in Category A. Copies of these nine references are also attached herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presented in this application are patentable over these references in view of the International Preliminary Examination Report of January 29, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 24,149)
HILL & SIMPSON
A Professional Corporation
85th Floor - Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: (312) 876-0200 - Ext. 647

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